



## Preserving the Irreplaceable

### **2020 Open Space Management Guidelines:**

Updated: 12/2/2020

#### **1.0 Goals and Objectives:**

These guidelines are developed to facilitate the Planning and management for Pembroke's conservation and recreation lands that support passive recreation and protection. These guidelines aid in executing the current Open Space and Recreation Action Plan, and support Goal 4; from the Pembroke Open Space and Recreation Plan

Goal 4: Help the citizens of Pembroke enjoy better access and increased recreational use of town open space.

- Increase access to open spaces in Pembroke.
- Educate the public about the existence importance, and possible uses of town open space.
- Improve maintenance of the town's recreation areas.
- Connect existing trail systems for enhanced recreational use.

#### **2.0 Stewardship of Open Space Properties:**

The towns Open Spaces must serve a multitude of purposes. Properties will be maintained and managed consistent with the identified goals of the Towns Open Space and Recreation Plan, subject to fiscal and other considerations. Management of properties will include periodic monitoring to identify maintenance needs, safety, and other concerns. The Open Space Committee will review modify and amend the management plans on a bi-annual basis to ensure that goals are being met and projects are properly closed out.

##### **2.1 Management of Open Space Lands**

###### **A. Pembroke Open Space Committee**

is a subcommittee of the Pembroke Conservation Commission to assist and provide support to the town regarding issues relevant to open space protection, stewardship and use. The committee also prepares and updates the town's open space plan, which allows the town to qualify for funding opportunities it otherwise would not.

###### **B. Notification to Abutters**

Abutting property owners shall be notified in advance if any Conservation Commission or Open Space Committee activities have the potential to create a disturbance or nuisance.



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### 2.2 Maintenance and Stewardship of Open Space Lands

#### A. Physical Improvements

Physical improvements or maintenance of the properties are to be conducted when necessary to promote the goals of the management plan. Development of structures or paved surfaces is to be minimized, utilizing the National Parks guidance for Sustainable trails.

#### B. Trails and Crossings

In general, trail development for passive recreational use is encouraged on Town Open Space Properties. Stream and wetland crossings will be monitored, and trail improvements will be provided, as necessary. In all cases safety, erosion control, and sensitivity of the land will control the creation and closing of trails.

#### C. Natural Area Designation

Some properties may be designated to be left in their natural state without physical changes, routine maintenance, or possibly public access.

#### D. Fencing

In general, use of fencing on open space lands is discouraged. Under certain conditions fences may be required as specified in a property's site-specific management plan.

#### E. Forest Management

Forest Management activities shall only be conducted in accordance with the Massachusetts Forestry Best Management Practices Manual. In general Town of Pembroke, will avoid clear cutting or extensive selective cutting of forests, except as needed for public safety, planned recreational needs, or for specific wildlife management plans.



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### 3.0 Uses of Properties:

Passive recreational use of Town Open Space by the public is encouraged where environmentally and socially appropriate. Activities on these properties should be accompanied by improved public access and awareness. Where lands are environmentally sensitive or human use may be detrimental, public use should be discouraged and restricted. Types of access and use of properties vary by property. The town seeks to match the goals and objectives listed in Section I with individual property management plans.

#### 3.1 Conditions of Use for All of Pembroke's Open Space Properties

- All town open space lands shall carry in/carry out. No person shall drop, throw, or place any litter, garbage, or other refuse on town open space lands. Trash receptacles shall not be provided.
- No person shall dig up, cut, break, remove, deface, defile, or ill use any building, structure, fence, sign, bush, plants, turf, rock, or any other thing located on the area owned or controlled by the Town.
- No solicitations shall be performed on Town property without written approval from the Town of Pembroke.
- Parking is permitted in designated parking areas only.
- Dogs must be under control at all times to protect sensitive wildlife values and respect other visitors.
- Please respect the rights of private property owners by staying within the conservation area.

#### 3.2 Permitted Activities

In general, public access is encouraged on the Town of Pembroke's open space properties. Types of access vary by property. In all cases, state, statute, or town ordinances that place protections and restrictions upon public property are applicable. Permitted activities are:

- Running / Walking / Hiking
- Nature Photography / Bird Watching
- Canoeing / Kayaking
- Cross country skiing and snow shoeing
- Dog Walking (effectively restrained by a chain or leash, or is under immediate and effective control of a handler in accordance with, General Bylaw Article XX Section 7)
- Environmental education and nature study
- Horseback Riding
- Bicycling on trails
- Fishing (in accordance with town Fishing License and State of Massachusetts Fisheries regulations)
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#### 3.3 Forbidden Activities

- Carrying and/or use of alcoholic beverages
- Littering or disposing of household garbage, trash, or other materials
- Fouling of any well, brook, stream, or any body of water
- Disposal of animal carcasses



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- Conduct and activities unreasonably disruptive such as drunkenness, breach of the peace, and disorderly conduct offensive to the general public
- Disposal of sand gravel, fill, brush, and other household or commercial materials or refuse without the permission of the Town of Pembroke.
- Harvesting or collecting of animals and plants except for scientific or educational purposes; and with prior written approval by the Town of Pembroke.

### 4.0 Enforcement, Emergencies, and Communication:

#### 4.1 Enforcement of Open Space Management Plans

The Board of Selectmen or its designee will enforce the rules and regulations as necessary to preserve the Town's open space lands for their intended uses, including such fines and restrictions as may be permitted by law.

**Please report violations to the Pembroke Police Department at (781)-293-6363**

**Hunting violations may be reported to the Environmental Police at (508) 366-6537**

#### 4.2 Emergency Response

The Town's Fire, Police, and EMT personnel are responsible for emergency procedures to be in place for response to emergencies at town open space lands. Motorized vehicles are allowed on the open space lands for public safety emergencies without prior written permission of the Town of Pembroke.

#### 4.3 Communication

Comments, suggestions, requests for permission, and all other communication with regard to this plan should be directed to the Pembroke Selectmen's Office.

Town of Pembroke City Hall  
100 Center Street  
Pembroke, MA 02359  
Tel: (781)709-1400

### 5.0 Town Open Space Properties:

For a full inventory of open space, please refer to Pembroke's Open Space and Recreation Plan, or the Town of Pembroke Website: [www.pembroke-ma.gov](http://www.pembroke-ma.gov)



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### 6.0 You are the owner, and You are the customer:

#### SUGGESTIONS FOR SAFETY AND ENJOYMENT

- BINOCULARS AND FIELD GUIDES can add pleasure to a walk.
- For longer outings, pack WATER AND A SNACK.
- REMAIN ALERT - Although our stewardship staff and volunteers work hard to keep trails free of hazards, some may be encountered. Please let us know if you notice a major concern.
- CHECK FOR TICKS on yourself, children, and pets during your visit and at its conclusion. Tuck pant legs into socks and stay on marked trails to reduce the risk of bites.
- AVOID POISON IVY, which grows along some trails: "Leaves of Three, Let it Be." Oils from leaves, stems, and roots can cause rashes at any time of year. Wash with warm, soapy water if exposed. Poison sumac is rarely encountered, as it grows in wet habitats where trails are not generally located.
- BITING INSECTS - If you are bothered by mosquitoes and other biting insects, remember to bring repellent.

### 7.0 Useful Resources:

<https://www.nsrwa.org/get-watersmart/greenscapes/>

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/trails/trail-management-tools/trailplans>

[https://www.nrpa.org/uploadedFiles/nrpa.org/Grants and Partners/Environmental Conservation/Community-Garden-Handbook.pdf](https://www.nrpa.org/uploadedFiles/nrpa.org/Grants%20and%20Partners/Environmental%20Conservation/Community-Garden-Handbook.pdf)

<https://www.pembroke-ma.gov/discover-pembroke/pages/maps-pembroke-hiking-trails>

<https://masswoods.org/>

<https://masstewardens.org/wp-content/uploads/Tree-Selection-1.pdf>

[https://issuu.com/conwaydesign/docs/issuu\\_version](https://issuu.com/conwaydesign/docs/issuu_version)



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Attachment 1:

Titan Trailblazer Report Form

Name (required) First / Last	
Preferred Contact Info (Email or Phone)	
Site Name Park / Preserve (required)	
Date of Inspection	
Approximate Time of Inspection	
Estimated number of People at Park / Preserve	

Number of Hours YOU Spent at Preserve: (Enter your personal hours for man-hour trending.)	
Brief Description of Inspection and Work Done:	

Violations/ Concerns

Choose all that apply, please give more information in description box below

<input type="checkbox"/>	No violations or concerns noted
<input type="checkbox"/>	Damaged infrastructure
<input type="checkbox"/>	Graffiti/Dumping (Large Item)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Litter (Smaller items)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dog waste issues
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tree overhanging trail (DANGEROUS)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tree down on trail (Inconvenient)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Overgrown Trail
<input type="checkbox"/>	Flooded Trail Section
<input type="checkbox"/>	Invasive or noxious plants
<input type="checkbox"/>	ATV Evidence
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fire pit Evidence
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other



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Details about Violations and Concerns (degree of severity, safety concern, etc)

Recommend attaching a Photo and Location description (general directions or use GPS Coordinates)

Location of violation

Ideas for Future Projects

Additional Comments-- Wildlife seen, persons interested in volunteering etc.

Submit e-mail and attached pictures to:

[pembrokeopenspace@gmail.com](mailto:pembrokeopenspace@gmail.com)



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### Attachment 2:

### Arthur & Michelle Lage Nature Preserve Property Management Plan

Access at: Barker Street

### Overview

Leverage the parcels favorable geography and create an optimized wildlife feeding and shelter preserve in the middle of the wildlife corridor. Develop new opportunities for passive recreation (wildlife viewing, gardening, hiking). Use selective mowing of former equestrian paddock removing woody shrubs and brush, but leaving existing food sources such as blackberries, grapes, blueberry bushes as thickets as food sources for native wildlife. Provide nesting boxes for vulnerable bat and raptor species in premier locations along forest border.

### Actions

- Finish trail sections for regular public use; improved trail surfaces and signage
- Install 80ft of Bog Bridge sections on Fairwood Through Trail using local trees and Forestry Service best practices or solicit donations and volunteers for building conventional boardwalk
- Selective mowing of Old Fields and thinning tree lines to prevent Forest Succession and maintain Fields as Grasslands.
- Thinning trees and young forest fringe
- Using best practices and removing identified invasive shrub species
- Cultivate Native Wildflowers and bushes to improve food sources in Wildlife Corridor
- Contact Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program for Habitat inventory or study.
- Install single chamber and 3-chamber bat houses and Nesting Platforms
- Demo fences from around house and goat pasture out back
- Remove Debris from initial Volunteer Clean up
- Temporary Bridge for Little Pudding Brook Crossing
- Patch Roofs for Garage and Stable
- RFB and Plan Permanent Repairs for Roofs
- Conservation Restriction drafted for property
- Permanent Bridge for Little Pudding Brook Crossing  
(7ft wide, ~20ft long; Built to withstand weight of ATV plus 4 adults)
- Demo old goat stable (mini excavator or backhoe needed)
- Pull old truck from stream bed (mini excavator or backhoe needed)
- ~~Demo and pull out old bridge (mini excavator or backhoe needed)~~ Completed 10/18/20
- Develop Plans and Demo House, breakup, and back fill foundation for Parking Area
- Lage Preserve Signs
- Community Garden Broadcast, gauge public interest for how many plots will be sufficient
- Walk field, get measurements, and make a rough outline for community garden



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- Evaluate feasibility of large garden bed for lease to local Farmer
- Run Water Line and Spigot for Community Garden (Hand watering Only)

### Additional Notes:

Barn Swallow Habitat “Red Bird Stable”

Bird habitat / used for stock storage / some trail tools storage (loose enough for birds, then not an ideal storage location for expensive assets)

Proposed options for Permanent Bridge crossing:

Plans and Drawing online resource:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/trails/trail-management-tools/trailplans>

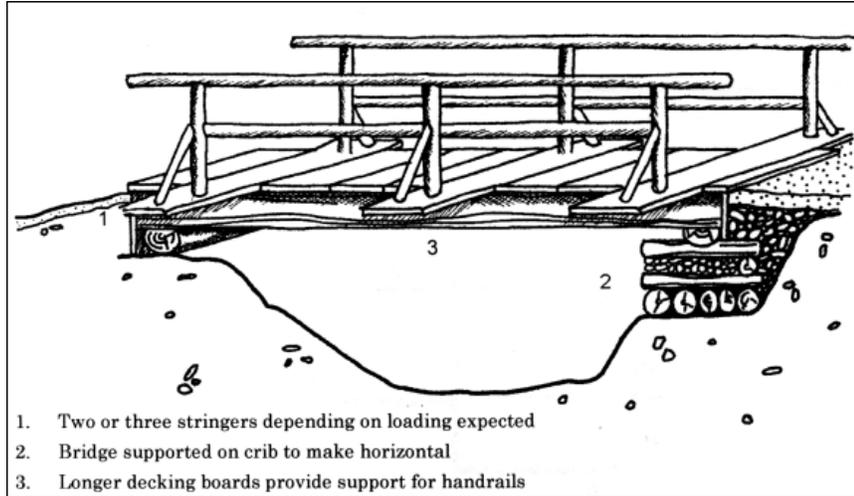


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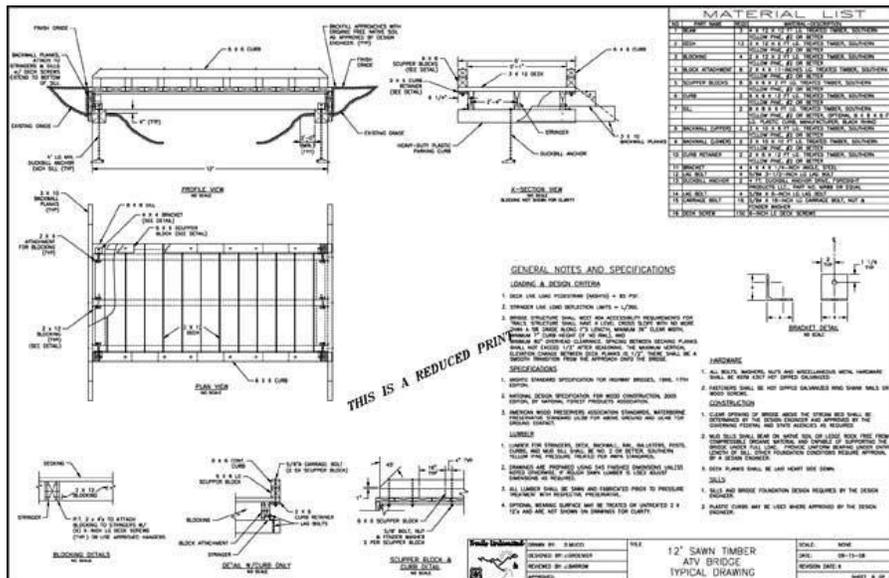
Good

Conventional Forestry Services Stream Crossing Design  
Utilize Used Utility Poles for Girders w/ Treated 2x6's for decking



Better

Conventional Stream Crossing Design  
Steel I-beams as Girders w/ Treated 2x6's for decking

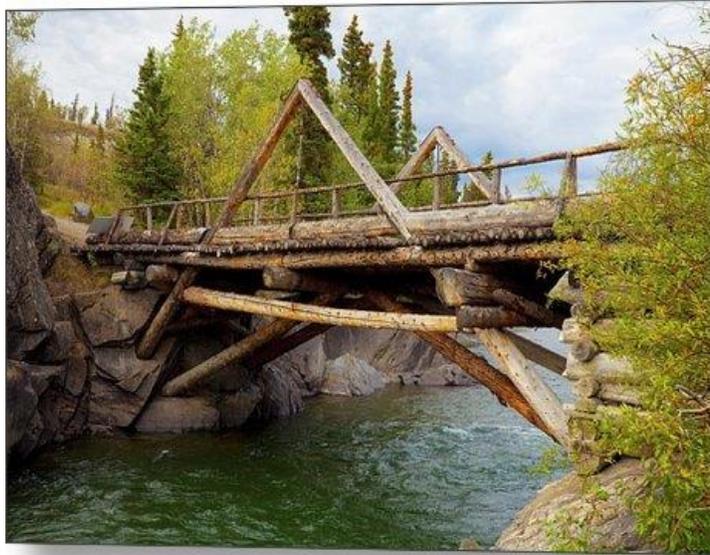




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### Best

Historic Design to add visual interest and context to area.  
Could model it off one of the Historic Herring Run Crossings.



### Maintenance

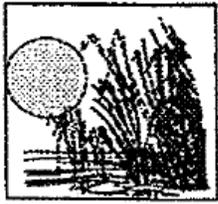
Minor changes in the frequency and timing of mowing, deck height, mower speed, and cutting pattern can improve our parks' resources.

- Avoid mowing the entire grassland in a single year. Instead, divide the grassland into two or three sections and mow each section only once every 2-3 years.
- Grasslands with extensive trees and shrubs will require hand cutting prior to mowing.
- Hand cut any invasive plants in fruit prior to mowing; keep these cut materials away from your mower deck so that you don't spread their seeds.
- Wash equipment both before and after mowing in order to prevent the spread of invasive plants.
- Mow as late in the year as possible. Many of our pollinators need fall flowers as a food source. Cutting should occur only after the late summer and fall flowers have died back.
- If you can't delay cutting until the late fall, wait until at least after September 15th . This ensures that nesting birds and turtles are out of the field before you cut.
- Use a mowing deck height of at least 7 inches above the ground; 12 inches if possible. This protects your equipment and avoids killing wildlife.
- Mow in low gear or at slow speeds so that wildlife has time to avoid the tractor and mower.



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- Mow in a pattern that allows wildlife to escape the tractor and mower. Start mowing from the center of the field and use either a back-and-forth approach, or a large circular pattern. This avoids concentrating fleeing animals where they may be killed or stranded.
- If a trail passes through your grassland, mow the trail edges as needed with a small lawnmower to keep the trail open as a single track.
- Educate park goers about the goals and benefits of your grassland management. Healthy, managed grasslands look different than lawns, and may be unfamiliar to the public.



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### Attachment 3:

### Community Gardens @ Lage Preserve Resource Management Plan

Access at: Barker Street

#### Overview

Create a Community Space that improves the quality of the lives of its residents. Offering a new and diverse activities that can be enjoyed by all members of our community young and old. Leverage surrounding assets and combine a Community Garden with a popular Nature Preserve along a Wildlife Corridor that is designed to attract and benefit local wildlife.

Trying to create a net positive asset for the Town of Pembroke, by utilizing an underused space and being designed from the beginning to be self-sustaining enterprise. Modeled off of other successful Community Garden partnerships in the region, Town of Norwell and Cross Street Flowers as an example.

#### Actions

Use White Garage wall facing street as billboard with mural / signage. To be used as farm stand and Community Garden Stewards HQ. Nice to have power / water / secure to be most effective.

Alternatively, could use the 191 Barker Street Location as Community Garden Farm stand and improve locations feasibility as Farmers Market Location while out of season from Kiwanis Xmas Trees fundraising.

Wood shed

Community Gardeners storage for long handled tools

Reuse old school / gym lockers for members to rent to store (trowels / gloves / seeds ect)

- Sixteen x 8 ft by 4 ft raised beds
- Four x 4 ft by 4 ft raised beds
- Ten x combined of the above ADA accessible table-height garden beds
- Install Rain barrels
  - Drip irrigation to these ADA beds? (Could utilize Rainwater Collection from gutters)
- Fenced enclosure to deter from wildlife and vandals
- Compost bins provided (pallet construction with latched gates)
- Compost and fill trucked in from Monroe Street Pits for establishing raised beds
- Vertical Gardens for kids on side of building
- Signage and education for residents (Greenscapes / composting/what is organic / USDA Hardiness zones/water runoff/pollution)



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### Attachment 4:

### Tubbs Meadow Resource Management Plan

Access at: Mill Street & Monroe Street

### Overview

Create a Community Space that

### Actions

- Replace Broken 5/4 Fence boards at Mill Street Entrance
- Fix up trail heads to improve ADA access
- Paint and Rehang Vehicle Access Gate
- Cut wires from pole install nesting platform for Raptor Habitat
- Scrap wires and Meter Box
- Install Bat boxes
- Create Wildlife Observation Blind / Bird watching Blind from Corrugate storage shed overlooking water
- Replace Broken 5/4 Decking Board Lookout Platform



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### Attachment 5:

### Green Infrastructure Resource Protection Plan

### (Townwide)

### Overview

Create a Community Space that

### Actions

- Look for erosion / washout areas adjacent water ways that a bioswale would be beneficial
- Look for Flooded streets sections where adding Green Street Infrastructure would be beneficial
- School zones where traffic calming and safer street crossings are needed
- Turn Mowed Turf zones into Pollinator Meadows or Rain Gardens



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Attachment 6:

Boston Animal Rescue League Resource Management Plan

Access at: Brisan Way

Overview

Create a Community Space that

Actions

- Look for erosion / washout areas adjacent water ways that a bioswale would be beneficial
- Look for Flooded streets sections where adding Green Street Infrastructure would be



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Attachment 7:

Bi-Centennial Trail Resource Management Plan

Access at: Littles Avenue

Overview

Create a Community Space that

Actions

- Clear brush at Trail head closest to street
- Repair Trail Map Box and make Trailhead Bulletin board
- Outline MassTrails Grant Scope



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### Attachment 8:

### JJ Shepherd Memorial Forest Resource Management Plan

Access at: Mattakesset Street

### Overview

Create a Community Space that

### Actions

- Make Trailhead Bulletin board
- Coordinate Cleanup Day With Little League and Recreation Commission



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Attachment 9:

Veterans Commemorative Town Forest Resource Management Plan

Access at: School Street

Overview

Create a Community Space that

Actions

- Post Guidelines at Trailhead Bulletin board
-



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Attachment 10:

Misty Meadows Conservation Area Resource Management Plan

Access at: Ingham Way

Overview

Create a Community Space that

Actions

- Post Guidelines at Trailhead Bulletin board
-



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Attachment 11:

Willowbrook Preserve Resource Management Plan

Access at: Barker Street

Overview

Create a Community Space that

Actions

- Post Guidelines at Trailhead Bulletin board
-



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Attachment 12:

Tuckers Preserve Resource Management Plan

Access at: West Elm Street

Overview

Create a Community Space that

Actions

- Post Guidelines at Trailhead Bulletin board
-



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Attachment 13:

Canoe Club Preserve Resource Management Plan

Access at: Barker Street

Overview

Create a Community Space that

Actions

- Post Guidelines at Trailhead Bulletin board
-



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Attachment 14:

North River Canoe Access Resource Management Plan

Access at: Brick Kiln Lane

Overview

Create a Community Space that

Actions

- Post Guidelines at Trailhead Bulletin board
-



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Attachment 15:

Andruk Bog Natural Resource Management Plan

Access at: Maquan Street

Overview

Create a Community Space that

Actions

- Post Guidelines at Trailhead Bulletin board
-



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Attachment 16:

Windswept Bogs Natural Resource Management Plan

Access at: Barker Street

Overview

Create a Community Space that

Actions

- Post Guidelines at Trailhead Bulletin board
-



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Attachment 17:

Recreation Properties Interface

Beaches:	Access at:
Little Sandy Bottom Pond Beach	Woodbine Avenue
Stetson Pond Beach	Plymouth Street
Town Landing	Wampatuck Street
Furnace Pond Beach	Furnace Colony Drive

Playgrounds:	Access at:
Birch Street Playground	Birch Street
Brick Kiln Playground	Brick Kiln Lane
Mattakesset Ball Fields Playground	Mattakesset Street

Overview

Create a Community Space that

Actions

- Post Guidelines at Trailhead Bulletin board



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Attachment 18:

Historical Properties Interface

Historical Site:	Access at:
Adah F Hall House	Barker Street
Friends Burying Ground	Washington Street
Peters Well	Fairwood Drive
Thomas Reading Historical Herring Run Park	Barker Street
Lydia Drake Library	High Street

Overview

Create a Community Space that

Actions

- Post Guidelines at Trailhead Bulletin board



# PEMBROKE OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

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